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APRIL 27.

The President, Dr. JOS. LEIDY, in the chair.

*On Anthracomartus Trilobitus* Scud.—Prof. F. L. HARVEY remarked that the coal field of North Arkansas belongs to the western interior coal area, which covers the greater part of Missouri, and extends into Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Indian Territory, Arkansas and Texas. This vast field covers 78,000 square miles, of which about 10,000 are in Arkansas and 12,000 in the Indian Territory. It belongs to the lowest, the *subconglomerate*. The veins occur in the shales of the millstone grit, less than 100 feet above the Archimedes limestone. There is only one vein in the northern limit, which is from eight to eighteen inches thick. In the Arkansas River valley there are three veins which often have an aggregate thickness of over six feet. The veins lie high in the hills in the Boston Mountains, but the southward dip brings them in the Arkansas River valley, beneath the drainage of the country.

The veins in north Arkansas are worked in a limited way by scalping and drifting, but shaft mining is done at Coal Hill, Spadra and other points and there is at present considerable coal exported to New Orleans down the Arkansas valley route.

The conditions were most favorable for the preservation of plant remains. Beautifully preserved plants occur in the shales above the coal vein of northwest Arkansas and limited research in Washington County alone yielded the speaker over 100 species new to the State and fifteen new to science.

While searching for fossil plants in the brash shale near the coal, a specimen of fossil spider was found. By carefully working over a few tons of shale several more specimens were procured. The material was sent to Prof. Scudder for examination and he named the form *Anthracomartus trilobitus*, sp. nov. It is believed to be the only species of the genus found in the coal measures of the United States. The genus was founded upon a single European species. It is interesting that a second species should be found so far separated. Fossil insects are scarce in the subconglomerate, and the three known from Arkansas are, a wing of *Blattina venusta*, discovered by Prof. Lesquereux and figured in Owen's Report of Arkansas, vol. ii, p. 312; the species of spider under consideration and an undescribed Neuropterous larva in the cabinet of the speaker. The description and figure of this *Anthracomartus*, so far as we know, has not been published, but is enumerated in Mr. R. D. Lacoe's "Check List of Palæozoic Insects." Less than a dozen specimens are known and they are in the cabinets of Prof. Scudder, Mr. R. D. Lacoe and the speaker, besides the specimen presented to the Academy

this evening. The specimens are all imperfect, showing only the abdomen and a part of the cephalothorax. The most of them were compressed vertically and give a transverse view. The compressed abdomen reminds one of the pygidium of a trilobite, hence the specific name. A single specimen compressed laterally shows well the elevated and rounded abdomen characteristic of our modern spiders. The cephalothorax is minutely punctate. The species is interesting as occurring at the base of the coal measures. The locality is no longer worked and the species may be considered scarce.

Messrs. Calvin McCormick and Samuel Wagner were elected members.

The following was ordered to be printed :—